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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications

Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer

Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Applications Available for “Connecting Students and Communities” Program

Summary: The application is open through Wednesday, August 20.

(August 6, 2014)-The University of Minnesota, Morris Center for Small Towns (CST) “Connecting Students and Communities” program provides the service of a Morris student to help local units of government, K–12 schools, and community-based organizations in the areas of research, project administration, and other support. The program is provided in partnership with the University of Minnesota Southwest Sustainable Development Partnership.

Previously funded student projects have addressed issues such as senior housing, storefront design, healthcare research, program evaluation, document design and newsletter creation, economic analysis, internet and web training, data analysis, downtown revitalization, and more.

Applications are for a 150-hour commitment this fall (late August–December). Preference will be given to applicants who are able to provide a financial match to help offset the cost of student hiring and travel expenses. Those without matching funds will be considered.

The application is open through Wednesday, August 20. To apply online, visit morris.umn.edu/cst/communitiesapp. CST staff can assist your organization with the application.

If the proposal is funded, staff will help coordinate activities related to the student’s involvement and provide technical assistance related to the project. For more information or a paper application, please contact Jessica Beyer, community program specialist, at 320-589-6451 or jbeyer@morris.umn.edu.

CST is a community outreach program that serves as a point-of-entry to the resources of the University of Minnesota. Small towns, local units of government, K–12 schools, nonprofit organizations, and other University units are able to utilize CST’s resources as they work on rural issues or make contributions to rural society. Its mission is to focus the University’s attention and marshal its resources toward assisting Minnesota’s small towns with locally identified issues by creating applied learning opportunities for faculty and students.

The Southwest Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership is a citizen-driven Board of Directors working with citizens in the region to create and sustain healthy ecosystems, strong local economies, and vibrant, self-reliant communities.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.